

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4755

To support research on privacy enhancing technologies and promote responsible data use, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2023

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To support research on privacy enhancing technologies and promote responsible data use, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Privacy Enhancing  
5 Technology Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY.**

7       (a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SUPPORT OF  
8 RESEARCH ON PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY.—The  
9 Director of the National Science Foundation, in consulta-  
10 tion with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies (as

1 determined by the Director), shall support merit-reviewed  
2 and competitively awarded research on privacy enhancing  
3 technologies, which may include the following:

4                 (1) Fundamental research on technologies for  
5 de-identification, pseudonymization, anonymization,  
6 or obfuscation to mitigate individuals' privacy risks  
7 in data sets while maintaining fairness, accuracy,  
8 and efficiency.

9                 (2) Fundamental research on algorithms and  
10 other similar mathematical tools used to protect in-  
11 dividual privacy when collecting, storing, sharing,  
12 analyzing, or aggregating data.

13                 (3) Fundamental research on technologies that  
14 promote data minimization in data collection, shar-  
15 ing, and analytics that takes into account the trade-  
16 offs between the data minimization goals and the in-  
17 formational goals of data collection.

18                 (4) Research awards on privacy enhancing tech-  
19 nologies coordinated with other relevant Federal  
20 agencies and programs.

21                 (5) Supporting education and workforce train-  
22 ing research and development activities, including re-  
23 training and upskilling of the existing workforce, to  
24 increase the number of privacy enhancing technology  
25 researchers and practitioners.

1                         (6) Multidisciplinary socio-technical research  
2                         that fosters broader understanding of privacy pref-  
3                         erences, requirements, and human behavior to in-  
4                         form the design and adoption of effective privacy so-  
5                         lutions.

6                         (7) Development of freely available privacy en-  
7                         hancing technology software libraries, platforms, and  
8                         applications.

9                         (8) Fundamental research on techniques that  
10                         may undermine the protections provided by privacy  
11                         enhancing technologies, the limitations of such pro-  
12                         tections, and the trade-offs between privacy and util-  
13                         ity required for the deployment of such technologies.

14                         (b) INTEGRATION INTO THE COMPUTER AND NET-  
15                         WORK SECURITY PROGRAM.—Subparagraph (D) of sec-  
16                         tion 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Develop-  
17                         ment Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)(D)) is amended by in-  
18                         serting “, including privacy enhancing technologies” be-  
19                         fore the semicolon.

20                         (c) COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
21                         OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER STAKE-  
22                         HOLDERS.—

23                         (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of  
24                         Science and Technology Policy, acting through the  
25                         Networking and Information Technology Research

1 and Development Program, shall coordinate with the  
2 Director of the National Science Foundation, the Di-  
3 rector of the National Institute of Standards and  
4 Technology, the Federal Trade Commission, and the  
5 heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to  
6 accelerate the development, deployment, and adop-  
7 tion of privacy enhancing technologies.

8 (2) OUTREACH.—The Director of the National  
9 Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct  
10 outreach to—

11 (A) receive input from private, public, and  
12 academic stakeholders on the development of  
13 privacy enhancing technologies; and

14 (B) facilitate and support ongoing public  
15 and private sector engagement to inform the  
16 development and dissemination of voluntary,  
17 consensus-based technical standards, guidelines,  
18 methodologies, procedures, and processes to  
19 cost-effectively increase the integration of pri-  
20 vacy enhancing technologies in data collection,  
21 sharing, and analytics performed by the public  
22 and private sectors.

23 (d) REPORT ON PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY  
24 RESEARCH.—Not later than three years after the date of  
25 the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of

1 Science and Technology Policy, acting through the Net-  
2 working and Information Technology Research and Devel-  
3 opment Program, shall, in coordination with the Director  
4 of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the  
5 National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the  
6 heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, submit  
7 to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-  
8 tation of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Commerce,  
9 Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee  
10 on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on  
11 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
12 resentatives, and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Jus-  
13 tice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on  
14 Appropriations of the House of Representatives, a report  
15 containing information relating to the following:

16 (1) The progress of research on privacy enhanc-  
17 ing technologies.

18 (2) The progress of the development of vol-  
19 untary resources described under subsection  
20 (c)(2)(B).

21 (3) Any policy recommendations that could fa-  
22 cilitate and improve communication and coordination  
23 between the private sector and relevant Federal  
24 agencies for the implementation and adoption of pri-  
25 vacy enhancing technologies.

1       (e) PROTECTING PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—Any personal identifying information collected or  
2 stored through the activities authorized under this section  
3 shall be done in accordance with part 690 of title 45, Code  
4 of Federal Regulations (relating to the protection of  
5 human subjects), or any successor regulation.

7       (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “privacy  
8 enhancing technology”—

9               (1) means any software or hardware solution,  
10          technical process, or other technological means of  
11          mitigating individuals’ privacy risks arising from  
12          data processing by enhancing predictability, manage-  
13          ability, disassociability, and confidentiality; and

14               (2) may include—

15                       (A) cryptographic techniques for facili-  
16                  tating computation or analysis on data while  
17                  mitigating privacy risks;

18                       (B) techniques for—

19                               (i) publicly sharing data without ena-  
20                  bling inferences to be made about specific  
21                  individuals;

22                               (ii) giving individuals’ control over the  
23                  dissemination, sharing, and use of their  
24                  data; and

25                               (iii) generating synthetic data; and

1                   (C) any other technology or approach that  
2                   reduces the risk of re-identification, including  
3                   when combined with other information.

